No such tests have been carried out on commonly used drugs for cold and cough to assess the level of risk involved in drugs containing certain chemicals.

However, a drug named Phenylpropanolamine (PPA), an ingredient used in cough and cold preparations as decongestant has been assessed in United States of America for a reported linkage with increasing risk of haemorrhagic strokes in women. PPA is also used in weight loss preparation in USA. Based on the study report, FDA, USA advised consumers to stop taking drug products containing PPA and declared its withdrawal from the US market.

Since in India, PPA is used only in many cold and cough formulations, the position has been reviewed by the Expert Committee of the DTAB. This Committee concluded that the evidence of a link between haemorrhagic stroke and PPA is weak and is mainly associated with uses which are not yet licensed in the country a view similar to that of the Medical Control Agency, U.K. Therefore, the DTAB has recommended that syrup formulations containing PPA as an ingredient should not contain more than 12.5 mg/dose of PPA and tablets should not have more than 25 mg of PPA/tablet. It has also recommended that the daily dose should not be more than 50 mg for children and 100 mg for adults. Instructions in this regard are being circulated to all State Licensing Authorities to monitor its sale in the country.

Comparative production Cost of Chemical Fertilizers

† 3021. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI* RAM JETHMALANI;

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production cost of chemical fertilizers in the country is higher than that at the international level;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have made any efforts to find out the production cost of chemical fertilizers in America, Canada, Brazil, Australia and other countries; and

(d) if so, the details of production cost in those countries and to what extent it is higher in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The production cost of chemical fertilizers in the country is currently higher than the international price. The reason for higher cost is mainly on account of higher feedstock/raw material cost in India. In the case of nitrogenous fertilizers, plants in the exporting countries are generally based on natural gas. As per available information, the cost of natural gas in those countries is around US$ 1 per million BTU or less, whereas in India as against the delivered cost is US $ 2.33 to 2.39 for the plants based on land fall point and US $ 2.76 to 3.07 for the plants based on HBJ pipeline. The feedstock cost of the plants based on naphtha and fuel oil is still higher. The delivered cost of naphtha at the factory gate is US $ 7.68 to 9.16 and that of fuel oil is US $ 5.59 to 6.31 per million BTU.

In regard to phosphatic fertilizers, plants in India are mostly dependent on imported intermediates or raw materials, the landed cost of which per tonne of DAP is usually higher than the landed cost of DAP itself. In addition, the industry has to incur conversion and capital related costs.

(c) and (d) It is difficult to get the production cost of chemical fertilizers in other countries, which is generally kept confidential for commercial interests.

Price Index of Pharmaceutical Formulations

3022. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the price index of pharmaceutical formulations during the last five years, ending the year 2000;

(b) whether there has been any rise in the price index; and